

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0028] as follows.

[0028] In a preferred embodiment, the band 16 is secured around the casing 14 of the missile 12 by applying about 40-50 in-lb of torque to the fastener screws 46. By applying a suitable amount of torque to the fasteners 46 when securing the band 16 to the missile 12, the hinged joints 34 are placed in tension, which in turn applies a radial load or compressive hoop stress around the missile casing 14. This radial loading minimizes rotation of the missile 12 within the hanger band 16 during operational use. In addition, the radial loading provides a local stiffness EI to the casing 14 of the missile 12, where I is the area moment of inertia and E is the Young's Modulus ($29-30 \times 10^6$ psi psi). In a preferred embodiment where the missile 12 has a 5 inch diameter and weighs about 190 lbs, the fasteners 46 are torqued to provide a stiffness between about 450×10^6 and 600×10^6 lb-in², which avoids a failure in the region of the casing 14 about which the band 16 circumferentially surrounds the missile 12.